



Cornerstone Washington-Parks Academy
Charter Schools

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To Chairperson Lyons and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Scott Cairo, and I am Principal of Washington-Parks Academy, which is part of the Cornerstone Charter School Network. We have participated in Patriot Week since our school's inception in September of 2009. Over the last few years, we have instituted intentional teaching of the foundational principles of unalienable rights, rule by the people, limited government, rule of law and consent to be governed outlined in the "Social Compact" to all of our student population. Every year, in Kindergarten through 8th grade, our students participate in activities like a September 11th Ceremony, public readings of founding documents, and various projects (such as writing classroom Constitutions, creating petitions for change within our school and many more) to reinforce the concepts we are teaching and they are learning.

As a former Social Studies teacher, I am convinced that our nation has a national crisis regarding the lack of knowledge and understanding that our young people exhibit regarding our country's founding principles. Patriot Week is one more path to draw attention to and teach our youngsters the ideals and truths that we hold so precious. By encouraging Patriot Week in all public schools, this legislation will help ensure that school districts and charter schools will more effectively teach our students these principles, enable students to become well equipped citizens, and meet the challenge of preserving our constitutional republic.

Sincerely,

Scott Cairo

Principal, Washington-Parks Academy